IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A wheel end assembly for an axle comprising:

a non-rotating component defining a lateral axis;

at least one torque plate mounted to said non-rotating component;

a brake assembly mounted to said torque plate; and

a radial location member supported by said non-rotating component, said radial location member comprising one of a plurality of teeth formed on a ring that surrounds said non-rotating component and a plurality of radial ~~protrusions~~ pins extending radially outwardly from said lateral axis, and wherein said torque plate includes corresponding structure that cooperates with one of said plurality of teeth and said plurality of pins of said radial location member to transfer rotational brake torque between said brake assembly and said non-rotating component through a solid interface.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 including an axial location member supported by said non-rotating component wherein said torque plate cooperates with said axial location member to position said torque plate at a predetermined location along said non-rotating component.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 2 wherein said non-rotating component comprises a trailer axle beam for a non-drive trailer axle.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 3 wherein said brake assembly comprises a disc brake assembly.

5-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 2 wherein said axial location member comprises an end stop supported on said non-rotating component with said torque plate

engaging said end stop to prevent relative axial movement between said torque plate and said non-rotating component.

11. (Original) A wheel end assembly for an axle comprising:

a non-rotating component defining a lateral axis;

at least one torque plate mounted to said non-rotating component;

a brake assembly mounted to said torque plate;

a radial location member supported by said non-rotating component, said radial location member comprising one of a plurality of teeth and a plurality of radial protrusions extending radially outwardly from said lateral axis, and wherein said torque plate cooperates with said radial location member to transfer rotational brake torque between said brake assembly and said non-rotating component through a solid interface; and

an axial location member supported by said non-rotating component wherein said torque plate cooperates with said axial location member to position said torque plate at a predetermined location along said non-rotating component, said axial location member comprising an end stop supported on said non-rotating component with said torque plate engaging said end stop to prevent relative axial movement between said torque plate and said non-rotating component and wherein said end stop comprises a ring fixed to said non-rotating component, said ring having a greater diameter than said non-rotating component to form a generally circular flange wherein said torque plate directly engages said circular flange.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The assembly of claim 10~~ A wheel end assembly for an axle comprising:

a non-rotating component defining a lateral axis;

at least one torque plate mounted to said non-rotating component;

a brake assembly mounted to said torque plate;

a radial location member supported by said non-rotating component, said radial location member comprising one of a plurality of teeth formed on a ring that surrounds said non-rotating component and a plurality of radial protrusions extending radially outwardly from said lateral

axis, and wherein said torque plate cooperates with said radial location member to transfer rotational brake torque between said brake assembly and said non-rotating component through a solid interface; and

an axial location member supported by said non-rotating component wherein said torque plate cooperates with said axial location member to position said torque plate at a predetermined location along said non-rotating component, said axial location member comprising an end stop supported on said non-rotating component with said torque plate engaging said end stop to prevent relative axial movement between said torque plate and said non-rotating component wherein said end stop comprises a non-torque bearing weld formed between said torque plate and said non-rotating component.

13. (Previously Presented) A non-drive trailer axle assembly comprising:

an axle beam having a generally tubular cross-section and defining a lateral axis extending along a length of said axle beam;

a first torque plate mounted to a first end of said axle beam;

a second torque plate mounted to a second end of said axle beam opposite from said first end;

a first disc brake assembly mounted to said first torque plate;

a second disc brake assembly mounted to said second torque plate;

first and second radial location members supported by said first and second ends of said axle beam, said first and said second radial location members extending radially outwardly from said lateral axis, and wherein said first and second torque plates cooperate with said first and second radial location members respectively to transfer rotational brake torque between said first and second disc brake assemblies and said axle beam; and

first and second axial location members supported by said first and second ends of said axle beam wherein said first and second torque plates cooperate with said first and second axial location members to position said first and second torque plates at predetermined locations along said axle beam and wherein at least one of said first and second radial location members and said

first and second axial location members comprises a separate component that is attached to said axle beam.

14. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 13 wherein each of said first and second radial location members comprises a plurality of male members supported on one of said first and second torque plates and said axle beam and a plurality of female members supported on the other of said first and second torque plates and said axle beam and wherein said plurality of male members are at least partially received within said plurality of female members to prevent relative rotation between said first and second torque plates and said axle beam.

15. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 14 wherein each of said first and second axial location members comprises an end stop supported on said axle beam with said first and second torque plates engaging a respective one of said end stops to prevent relative axial movement between said first and second torque plates and said axle beam.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of mounting a torque plate to a trailer axle component comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a non-rotating axle tube for a non-drive trailer axle, the non-rotating axle tube defining a lateral axis;

(b) radially locating a torque plate on the non-rotating axle tube with a first location member to prevent relative rotation between the torque plate and the non-rotating axle tube wherein the first location member comprises a plurality of radial members extending radially outwardly from the lateral axis;

(c) axially locating the torque plate on the non-rotating axle tube with a second location member to prevent relative axial movement between the torque plate and the non-rotating axle tube wherein at least one of the first and second location members comprises a component that is separately mounted to the non-rotating axle tube; and

(d) mounting a disc brake assembly to the torque plate.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the first location member is different than the second location member.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein step (b) further includes supporting a plurality of male members on one of the non-rotating axle tube and torque plate, supporting a plurality of female members on the other of the non-rotating axle tube and torque plate, and inserting the plurality of male members into the plurality of female members and step (c) further includes forming an end stop about an outer circumference of the non-rotating axle tube and abutting the torque plate against the end stop.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 including performing step (b) without welding the torque plate to the non-rotating axle tube.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein step (d) further includes mounting the disc brake assembly to the torque plate without requiring any additional machining to the torque plate subsequent to steps (b) and (c).

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein step (b) includes forming the plurality of radial members as one of a plurality of teeth and a plurality of radial pins extending radially outwardly relative to an outer circumferential surface of the non-rotating axle tube.

22. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said first and second radial location members comprise one of a plurality of teeth and a plurality of radial pins extending radially outwardly relative to an outer circumferential surface of said axle beam.

23-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A wheel end assembly for an axle comprising:

a non-rotating component defining a lateral axis;

at least one torque plate mounted to said non-rotating component;

a brake assembly mounted to said torque plate; and

a radial location member supported by said non-rotating component, said radial location member comprising one of a plurality of teeth and a plurality of radial protrusions extending radially outwardly from said lateral axis wherein said plurality of radial protrusions comprises a plurality of radial pins that extend radially outwardly relative to an outer circumferential surface of said non-rotating component, and wherein said torque plate cooperates with said radial location member to transfer rotational brake torque between said brake assembly and said non-rotating component through a solid interface.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the torque plate includes corresponding structure that receives the plurality of radial members and wherein step (b) includes mating the corresponding structure of the torque plate with the plurality of radial members.

28. (New) The wheel end assembly of claim 25 wherein said torque plate includes corresponding structure that receives one of said plurality of teeth and said plurality of radial protrusions to form said solid interface.